

REMARKS

Claims 17, 19, 21-24, 29-38 and 65-73 are pending and subject to a restriction requirement dated March 19, 2009. Substantive examination on the merits is requested.

The restriction requirement states that the claims have to following species, with one of them being required for election:

- (a) alginate
- (b) gelatin
- (c) fibrin, fibrinogen
- (d) albumin
- (e) polylactide, polyglycolide
- (f) polycaprolactone
- (g) poly(alpha-hydroxy acid)
- (h) polyethylene glycol
- (i) thixotropic polymers
- (j) thermoreversible polymers
- (k) collagen
- (l) hyaluronic acid

Applicant elects (h) polyethylene glycol.

Claims 17, 19, 21-24, 33-38, and 71 read on the elected species. Grouping of the claims for the restriction requirement is made for procedural purposes and is not a representation as to the substance of what is claimed.

The restriction requirement is traversed on the grounds that the generic claim has already been examined such that there is no undue burden to search all of the species at this juncture. The restriction requirement is also traversed on the grounds that Applicant has now requested examination of species (h) on the merits for three restriction requirements. Applicant has not shifted the grounds of examination and the issuance of new restriction requirements is traversed as procedurally improper.

The collagen species (k) has already been examined and found allowable so that the elected species (h) may continue to be examined under the present restriction requirement without withdrawal of the previously-allowed claims directed to collagen.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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